

THE TENNESSEAN

MUSIC

Here is the full list of winners in Nashville for the 11th Annual Josie Music Awards 2025



[Audrey Gibbs](#)

Nashville Tennessean

Updated Nov. 4, 2025, 3:53 p.m. CT

On Nov. 2, the [11th annual Josie Music Awards](#) (the JMAs) returned to Music City.

Honoring the best in the independent music industry across all genres, the JMAs handed out 244 total awards at the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville.

The JMAs, the largest independent music award show in the world, were created by mother-daughter duo Josie Passantino-Boone and Tinamarie Passantino in 2015.

The pair wanted to create a space for independent music artists, songwriters and industry professionals to gather and celebrate their work.

More: [Here is the full list of winners in Nashville for the 10th Annual Josie Music Awards 2024](#)

Need a news break? [Check out the all new PLAY hub with puzzles, games and more!](#)

The night's top award, the lifetime career achievement honor, went to Lorrie Morgan.

The 66-year-old country singer, a top country stars of the '90s, is known for her hits "Five Minutes," "What Part of No," and "I Didn't Know My Own Strength".

Morgan's son Jesse Keith Whitley presented her the honor before she hit the stage to perform "A Picture of Me (Without You)."

More: [Lorrie Morgan: Country singer with three No. 1 hits charted first single 'Two People in Love' in 1979](#)

Another one of the night's top honors, the songwriter legend award, went to [Steve Dorff](#), a songwriter who has written over 20 top 10 pop and country hits.

He was presented the award by John Berry and Bobby Tomberlin.

To see the night's full winners list, read on.

2025 Josie Music Award Winners

Lifetime Career Achievement: Lorrie Morgan

Songwriter Legend Award: Steve Dorff

JMA Icon Award: EG Daily

The JMA Tex Ritter Award: The Malpass Brothers

Entertainer of the Year - Artist: JD Shelburne

Entertainer of the Year - Duo/Group: The Almas

Artist of the Year - Multi-Genre Male: Chad Johnson

Artist of the Year – Rock: Jasmine Cain

Artist of the Year - Country Female: EmiSunshine

Artist of the Year - Modern/Pop Country Female: McKayla Prew

Artist of the Year - Outlaw Country: Josh Davis

Artist of the Year - R&B/Soul: Shylah Ray

Artist of the Year - Americana/Folk Male: Brian Allison

Artist of the Year - Southern Rock/Country Rock Female: Krystal King

Artist of the Year - Southern Rock/Country Rock Male: Brooks Herring

Artist of the Year - Under 18 Alumni: Tege Holt

Artist of the Year - Under 18: Tristan Roberson

Artist of the Year - Pop Rock: Tim Ringer

Artist of the Year - Americana/Folk Female: Samantha Grimes

Artist of the Year - Gospel/Christian/Inspirational: Shellem Cline
Artist of the Year - Jazz/Blues: Travis Bowlin
Artist of the Year - Multi-Genre Female: Clare Cunningham
Artist of the Year - Country Male: Waylon Hanel
Artist of the Year - Country Male Alumni: Chad Bushnell
Artist of the Year - Modern/Pop Country Male: Jake Bradley
Artist of the Year - Traditional/Classic Country: B.J. Jamison
Artist of the Year - Pop/Dance/Contemporary: Alyssa Jacey
World Artist of the Year: Love Itoya
Rising Star of the Year Female: Robyn Ashley
Rising Star of the Year Male: Garrett Huffman
Rising Star of the Year - Modern Country/Pop Country Female: Jacki Daniels
Rising Star of the Year - Country Female: Ashley Brooks
Rising Star of the Year - Country Male: Kevin Thomas
Rising Star of the Year - Country Mix Male: Travis Reigh
Emergent Artist of the Year: John Eason
Emergent Artist of the Year - Country Female: Presley Puig
Emergent Artist of the Year - Country Male: Caden Wilson
Duo of the Year – Americana: Sugarcane Jane
Duo of the Year – Country: Cliff & Susan
Group of the Year – Country: Matt Tejeda and The Backwoods Band
Group of the Year - Multi-Genre: Crooked Eye Tommy
Group of the Year – Bluegrass: Carolina Bluegrass Style
Group of the Year – Americana: Andrew Moore and Hooch
Group of the Year - Hard Rock/Metal: Lost Circus
Duo of the Year - Multi-Genre: Harmony Holler
Duo/Group of the Year - Gospel: Riven
Group of the Year - Country/Rock: The Jess Zimmerman Band
Group of the Year - Southern Rock: Greye
Group of the Year - Outlaw Country: Cody Ikerd and the Sidewinders
Group of the Year – Blues: King Bee & The Stingers
Group of the Year - Alternative/Indie/Pop Rock: Defeated

Group of the Year – Rock: The Goldy Locks Band

Vocal Event of the Year - Male/Female Collaboration: Kirstie Kraus, Mike Nash
“Largo”

Vocal Event of the Year: Andrew Chappell and Dave Nudo “I’m All In”

Vocalist of the Year - Multi-Genre Female: Abbie Thomas

Vocalist of the Year - Multi-Genre Male: Chase Bush

Vocalist of the Year - R&B/Soul: Teri Tobin

Vocalist of the Year - Jazz/Blues: Lauren Anderson

Vocalist of the Year - Americana/Folk Female: Jayna Jennings

Vocalist of the Year - Americana/Folk Male: Jimmy Bowen

Vocalist of the Year – Outlaw: Danny Spiro

Vocalist of the Year - Rock/Metal Male: Chris O’Brien

Vocalist of the Year - Modern Country Male Alumni: Barefoot Joe

Vocalist of the Year - Modern Country: Kevin Wolff

Vocalist of the Year - Country Female Alumni I: Carrie Brockwell

Vocalist of the Year - Country Male Alumni I: Rob Cole

Vocalist of the Year - Country Male I: Travis Thamert

Vocalist of the Year - Under 18 Alumni: Robert Levey II

Vocalist of the Year - Under 18: Zoey Rae

Vocalist of the Year – Pop: Jack Austin

Vocalist of the Year - Pop/Rock: River Gibson

Vocalist of the Year - Adult Contemporary: Lacy Miller

Vocalist of the Year - Gospel/Christian/Inspirational Female: Cece Manuela

Vocalist of the Year - Gospel/Christian/Inspirational Male: Whitlee Casey

Vocalist of the Year – Bluegrass: Tianna Lefebvre

Vocalist of the Year - Country Rock/Southern Rock Male: Scott Boyd

Vocalist of the Year - Country Rock/Southern Rock Female: Tobi Lee

Vocalist of the Year - Rock/Metal Female: Chelsea Calloway

Vocalist of the Year - Modern Country Female Alumni: Christine Radlmann

Vocalist of the Year - Traditional/Classic Country: Eric Diamond

Vocalist of the Year - Country Female I: Lucie Tiger

Vocalist of the Year - Country Female II: Audra McLaughlin

Vocalist of the Year - Country Male II: Cody Glenn Cox
Vocalist of the Year - Country Female Alumni II: Jenny Grace
Vocalist of the Year - Country Male Alumni II: Caleb Kelley
Songwriter of the Year - Personal Portfolio Female Alumni: Erin Stoll
Songwriter of the Year - Personal Portfolio Female: Ashley Jordan
Songwriter of the Year - Personal Portfolio Male Alumni: Andru Jamison
Songwriter of the Year: Corey Lee Barker
Songwriter of the Year - Personal & Pitching Portfolio Female: Sheri Swartz
Songwriter of the Year - Personal Portfolio Male: Aaron Hymes
Songwriter of the Year - Personal & Pitching Portfolio Male: Brad McKinney
Story-Enhanced Performance Video of the Year: "If I Sin For You?" Celeste Marie Wilson
Story-Enhanced Performance Video of the Year Male: "Mama Never Liked The Rodeo," Eric Lee Beddingfield
Story Enhanced Performance Video of the Year Duo/Group/Collabs: "I Didn't Know," The Goldy LockS Band Feat. Mickie James & The Lacs
Music Video of the Year Performance Focused Duo/Group: "The Will," Nu-Blu
Music Video of the Year Performance Focused Female: "The Bitter End," Brenda Best
Music Video of the Year Performance Focused Male: "Damn Good Time," Jordan Moore
Social Impact Video of the Year Duo/Group/Collab: "High Heel On The Pedal," Ashlie Amber Feat. Velvet Rodeo
Social Impact Video of the Year Male: "I'm Sorry," Chuck Thomas
Social Impact Video of the Year Female: "Stardust," Shy Blossom
Expressive Verse Video of the Year: "Make Canada Great Again," Rudy Gunn
Music Video of the Year Duo/Group/Collab: "Taste The Whiskey," Eric Lee Beddingfield with Jesse Keith Whitley
Music Video of the Year Female: "Gunfire," Remington Mae
Music Video of the Year Male: "Wishing Well," Louie Lee
Music and Video Projects Children's: "Baby Ninja," Kelli Welli

Music Video of the Year Female Alumni: “Mind Your Own Backyard,” Krystal King

Music Video of the Year Male Alumni: “White Trash Like Me,” Joey Ferris

Artist/Duo/Group of the Year Children’s: Kathryn the Grape

Musician of the Year – Banjo: Dustin Terpenning

Musician of the Year - Brass/Woodwind: Evangelos Carydakakis (Saxophone)

Multi-Instrumentalist - Musician of the Year: EJ Edward Ouellette

Musician of the Year – Strings: Kyle Roop (Pedal Steel)

Musician of the Year – Bass: Charlie Frie

Musician of the Year – Keys: MarQ Andrew Speck

Musician of the Year – Piano: Dr. Tedrin Blair Lindsay

Musician of the Year - Piano/Keys Alumni: Ed Bazel

Musician of the Year - Drums/Percussion: Squeak Melusky

Musician of the Year - Drums/Percussion Alumni: AJ Newton

Musician of the Year - Guitar I: David Jones

Musician of the Year - Guitar II: Terence Young

Musician of the Year - Guitar III: Damon Mitchell

Social Impact - Song of the Year Female: ”Forever 13,” Khloe Grace

Social Impact Song of the Year - Female Alumni: “The Sacrifice,” Alyssa Ruffin

Social Impact Song of the Year – Male: “Buy Me A Memory,” Chet Lawrence

Social Impact Song of the Year: “Stand,” Kathryn Shipley, Lee Newton, Nita Perez, Dimitris Nezis, Holly Fischer, Frank Fasano, Phil Kanakis

Holiday Song of the Year: “Cause It’s Christmas,” Revele and Family

Song of the Year – Bluegrass: “Light In My Life,” Jackson Hollow

Song of the Year Alumni - Christian/Gospel/Inspirational: “Wonderful Work,” Jason Lee McKinney Band

Song of the Year - Gospel/Christian/Inspirational: “Glory To God,” Woodshed Revival

Song of the Year - Rock/Alt Rock/Metal: “Walk All Over Me,” Brett Ryder

Song of the Year - Rock/Alt Rock/Metal Individual Alumni: “Ghost,” Spencer Ezell

Song of the Year - Rock/Alt Rock/Metal Duo/Group Alumni: "Lifeline," The Almas

Song of the Year - Southern Rock/Country Rock Alumni: "Not Ready," Jake Nelson

Song of the Year - Southern Rock/Country Rock: "Dead Man Running," Drifted Harmony

Song of the Year - Pop/Rock: "Forever," The Swansons

Song of the Year – Folk: "Sweet Mountain Music," Them Lasses

Song of the Year - Americana Female: "Hercules," Sam Hatmaker Feat. EmiSunshine

Song of the Year - Americana Male: "Worth Breaking," Brian Allison

Song of the Year - Americana Duo/Group/Collab: "Pretty Lights of Denver," Weary Ramblers

Song of the Year – Outlaw: "Time To Say Goodbye," Blackwood Mojo

Song of the Year - World/New Age World: "Smile," Cecy Santana

Song of the Year – Instrumental: "Tyrone Blues," D Boone Pittman

Song of the Year - Multi-Genre: "Heaven's Front Porch," Flatline

Song of the Year - Pop/Adult Contemporary: "When I'm With You," Faith Lee

Song of the Year - Pop Alumni I: "Love You More and More," Kim Cameron Darick DDS Spears

Song of the Year - Jazz/Blues: "Just Walk Away," Derrick Dove & The Peacekeepers

Song of the Year - R&B/Soul: "Send Me Love," Markey Blue

Song of the Year - Hip Hop: "My Heart," Irene Michaels Feat. Twizm Whyte Piece

Song of the Year - Traditional/Classic Country Male: "Don't Forget, Remember Me," Webb Dalton

Song of the Year Traditional/Classic Country Female: "That's The Way Love Goes," Paula Buchanan

Song of the Year Country Female Alumni: "I told Her For Him," Rylee Austin

Song of the Year - Country Female I: "Nashville Don't Forget Me," Elisa Smith

Song of the Year - Country Male Alumni I: "Can't Be Roped," Sam Stinson

Song of the Year Country Male I: “Sundown In A Small Town,” Shawn Richards
Song of the Year Country Male III: “Song On The Radio,” Elliott Booe
Song of the Year - Country Female II: “Hate To Lie,” Lara Bell
Song of the Year - Country Male Alumni II: “Sweet Home Tennessee,” Robert Abernathy
Song of the Year - Country Male II: “Make It To Nashville,” Trey Bryant
Song of the Year - Country Duo/Group/Collab: “Lives In The Whiskey,” Roseland
Song of the Year - Modern Country/Pop Country Male: “Don’t Wanna See The Rain,” Clinton Wilkie
Song of the Year - Modern Country/Pop Country Male Alumni: “Whatcha Gonna Do,” Brandon Lowe
Song of the Year Modern Country/Pop Country Female Alumni: “Mr. Wallen,” Ashlyn Greene
Song of the Year Modern Country/Pop Country Female: “Forgot Your Name,” McKenna Faith Winters
Song of the Year - Children’s Music: “It’s Ok To Make Mistakes,” Irene Rose
Album of the Year - Rock/Hard Rock/Alt Rock/Metal: “Attitude Is Everything,” Jasmine Cain
Album of the Year - Pop/Contemporary/Dance: “Unbridled Angel,” Aaron Sidwell
Album of the Year - Americana/Folk: “Not What I Do,” Laura Sawosko
Album/EP of the Year – Instrumental: “Christmas Romance Instrumentals,” Corey Lee Barker
Album/EP of the Year – Holiday: “That’s What Christmas Means To Me,” Robert Bacon
EP/Album of the Year - Multi-Genre: “Not Gonna Lie,” Abbie Thomas
Album/EP of the Year - Jazz/Blues: “Live From The Slippery Noodle,” King Bee & The Stingers
Album/EP of the Year - Traditional/Classic Country: “Homesick,” Lee Newton
Album of the Year – Country: “Pushing Borders,” Matt Castillo

Album of the Year - Country (Mixed Genre Sound): "When It's All Said And Done," Danny Terrell

EP of the Year – Rock: "Obscura," Brando Vanschoyck

Album/EP of the Year - Christian/Gospel/Inspirational: "Room With A View," Brandon Hixson

EP of the Year - Pop/Contemporary: "Elements," CheraLee

EP of the Year - Folk/Americana: "Casualties of a Life Well Lived," Ashley Jordan

EP of the Year – Country: "Under The Neon," Dusty Moats

Best Stage Performance: Mr. Talkbox

Tribute Band of the Year: Olivia Mojica Blank Space Tribute - A Tribute to Taylor Swift

Tribute Artist of the Year Female: Ashlie Amber Harris - Tribute to Whitney Houston

Tribute Artist of the Year Male/Country: Keith Ormrod - Tribute to Kenny Chesney

Tribute Artist of the Year Male: Don Suiters (Kid Kentucky) - Tribute to Kid Rock

Record Label of the Year: Clarksville Sound

PR/Promotion Company: 2911 Media

Music Venue of the Year: Ranchman's (Calgary, Canada)

Magazine of the Year: Cashbox Magazine

Television Show/Station of the Year: American Country Network

Podcast/Music Radio Show: Overtones LIVE Presented by Listen Locally

Studio/Production Company of the Year: TuneDesigner

Artist Management Company of the Year: Midwest Artist Group

Solo Artist Representative of the Year: DLS Music

Live Show Productions of the Year: The Coyote Store

Photographer of the Year: Janet Reynolds Photography

Music Business of the Year: Kincaid-Gooch Voice Studio

Radio Station of the Year: Sterling Country Radio

Music Producer of the Year: Dr. Ted Olson

Fan's Choice Female: Macy Tabor

Fan's Choice Female: EV Mae

Fan's Choice Male: David Krantz

Fan's Choice Male: Adam Calvert

Fan's Choice Duo/Group: Kentucky Just Us

Fan's Choice Duo/Group: Matt Clarkson Band

Best Actress in A Music Video: Krystal King, "Mind Your Own Backyard"

Best Actress in A Music Video: Megan Vanlandingham, "Heaven's Front Porch"

Best Actor in A Music Video: Howie Garoutte, "Why Am I Here"

Best Actor in A Music Video: Country Kid Nikko, "Wishing Well"

Vocal Competition Winner At "Passantino's": Gio

Humanitarian Organization of the Year: Wings of Rescue

Songwriter Achievement Winners:

"She Is Talking With Her Eyes" - Paul Overstreet, Rory Feek

"Midnights" - Thornton Cline, Sassy VeZay, Michael Jay

"Good To Be Blessed" - Corey Lee Barker, Loretta Jent

"Bad Chemistry" - Austin McKedy, Tracie McKedy, Mackynsie McKedy

"Higher" - Danny Kensy

"Right Mind at the Wrong Time" - Brad Morgan, Royce Johns

"Fly" - Kelsie Kratins

"Here's to the Man in Red" - Cara Paige, Justine Blazer, Corey Lee Barker

"Honky-Tonk Withdrawal" - John Bielecki, Brandon Maddox

"Enlightenment" - Erin Sliney

To learn more about the Josie Music Awards, head to josiemusicawards.com.

Audrey Gibbs is a music journalist at The Tennessean. You can reach her at agibbs@tennessean.com.